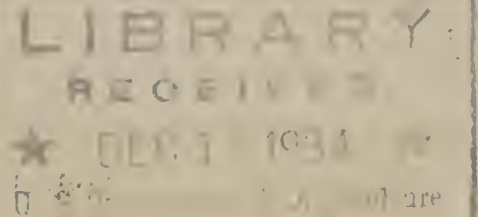


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THE GARDEN CALENDAR



A radio dialogue by W. R. Beattie, Bureau of Plant Industry and C. P. Close, Extension Service, delivered in the Department of Agriculture period of the National Farm and Home Hour, broadcast by a network of 50 associate NBC radio stations, Tuesday, November 27, 1934.

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ANNOUNCER:

In our Garden Calendar period today, Mr. Beattie has as his guest Mr. C. P. Close, Extension Horticulturist of the Department, and I have an idea they are going to give us something about the horticultural extension work. How about it, Mr. Beattie?

BEATTIE:

You are right, Mr. Teuton, and you know I've been telling the Farm and Home Hour folks a lot about the work of the scientists in the Department and the State Colleges and Experiment Stations, and how their results can be made of use on our farms and in our homes. I have had the feeling that all of this scientific work, valuable as it is, would be of little value to you and to me unless somebody told us about it, and in many cases showed us how to apply it in our own work. Today, we are going to depart from our usual course a little and tell you about the people who are bringing this information to you. I refer especially to the State Extension Specialists in horticulture, the County Agricultural Agents, the County Home Demonstration Agents, and the Boys' and Girls' Club Agents. All of these folks are busy demonstrating to the farmers and others how to make use of the things that our scientific workers have discovered. But, let me introduce Mr. Close and have him tell you what part he takes in this job of extending information.

CLOSE:

Well Beattie, as you know my work is to get information out to the extension workers in the States and then later to check up on results and see how many people actually adopted the improved methods. You will doubtless recall the figures I showed you last week giving the numbers of horticultural demonstrations that were carried through to completion in 1933.

BEATTIE:

Yes, and you will remember that I took one look at those figures and said, "Well, that looks pretty good for the horticultural extension work doesn't it"? Do you know folks, those figures showed that over half a million horticultural demonstrations were carried through to completion in 1933? Now I realize that figures are dull things at best and especially over the radio, but I am going to ask Mr. Close to give you two or three of the high spots in that report. Now C.P., what do you consider most significant?

CLOSE:

Well W. R., I think the most outstanding point is the fact that those horticultural demonstrations were spread over 45 out of the 48

(over)

States and even included the Hawaiian Islands. About \$379,000 or two-fifths of a million dollars was allotted by the States for extension work in Horticulture this fiscal year. At present, there are 115 State horticultural specialists serving as leaders of this work in the States. These State leaders work through the County and Home Agents and the Boys' and Girls' Club Agents. They help in the selection of the volunteer workers in the various localities who carry on the actual demonstrations and check up the results.

BEATTIE:

You remember that old saying, "Seeing is believing", and that certainly is true of the demonstration work and seeing the results right in one's own neighborhood is more convincing than a dozen reports. But, I'd like to know what crops or lines of horticultural work were included in the half million or so demonstrations in the 45 States and Hawaiian Islands?

CLOSE:

The leading ones were potatoes, sweetpotatoes, home gardens, market gardens, tree fruits, bush and small fruits, grapes and the beautifying of home grounds.

BEATTIE:

Let's see now, how many horticultural demonstrations did you say were carried through to completion in 1933?

CLOSE:

Considerably over half a million; 570,526 to be exact.

BEATTIE:

And what type of demonstration was most popular?

CLOSE:

Home gardens. There were 326,568 home garden demonstrations. You see the people have become very much interested in improved methods of growing vegetables for home use, also in storing and canning the products. The Home Agents and the Boys' and Girls' club leaders have done a wonderful work in demonstrating to the people how they can apply new methods of growing and caring for their food supply.

BEATTIE:

Has this work been confined entirely to the people living on farms?

CLOSE:

The 570 odd thousand demonstrations have been practically all on farms and around small towns. The State and county extension service have been a great help to the State relief force in charge of the relief garden movement around the larger industrial centers. They have instructed the State leaders of this movement in the preparation of the land, the securing of seeds and plants, the planting of relief gardens, the battle for the control of insect enemies and plant diseases and finally in the care and storage of the products of the gardens. This was in addition to supervising their regular demonstrations.

BEATTIE:

And how many specialists did you say were engaged in directing this horticultural work?

CLOSE:

One hundred and fifteen in the 45 States and the Hawaiian Islands.

BEATTIE:

Let's see, -- that would figure out an average of about 5,000 demonstrations for each specialist, or approximately 12,400 demonstrations for each of the 45 States. How did this small number of specialists look after so many demonstrations?

CLOSE:

That's where the County Agents, the Home Agents, and the Boys' and Girls' club leaders come into the picture for they secure the volunteer demonstrators and supervise the demonstrations. But don't get the idea that the promotion of home gardens was the only thing that these State specialists were doing. They completed over 96,000 demonstrations in the beautification of home grounds, the plan being to have several of these demonstrations scattered over each county where people could see them and pattern after them in improving their own home grounds. There were 46,000 demonstrations showing the best methods of growing good crops of potatoes, including the use of better seed and the control of insects and diseases. Market gardens came in for 32,000 demonstrations and tree fruits for over 29,000. These demonstrations were all carried through to a finish.

BEATTIE:

Can you give a good illustration of a method which someone of the State specialists followed to get definite information to the growers?

CLOSE:

Yes, the case of H. A. Rollins of Connecticut is a good one. Rollins adopted a novel method to get spraying information to about 3,000 people having small orchards or only a few fruit trees.

BEATTIE:

How did he do it?

CLOSE:

Instead of trying to reach the 3,000 people he instructed spray-material dealers in the use of proper remedies to control fruit diseases and insects.

BEATTIE:

That sounds like a round-about way of teaching people.

CLOSE:

It may sound that way but it really isn't. Very few people with small orchards know when to spray and what to use. If the dealers have this information then they sell just what should be used. In Connecticut dealers handling four-fifths of the spray materials used this past year were contacted through meetings and personal visits and told what the ex-

tension service recommended. This was done in time for them to order spray materials for spring use and they stocked up with what Rollins suggested. The results were most satisfactory.

BEATTIE:

Was this method used for any other purpose?

CLOSE:

Yes, it was used in exactly the same way to have fruit growers purchase the right kind and amount of fertilizers for their fruit trees. In fact, the same dealers handled both spray materials and fertilizers.

BEATTIE:

Were there any printed instructions for people who needed only a small amount of spray material?

CLOSE:

Yes, a short bulletin giving full information on materials for spraying tree fruits and grapes was prepared by Mr. Rollins. Instead of giving formulas for 50-gallon lots of spray they were given for 10-gallon lots. Directions for using dust sprays are also given. This little bulletin is so arranged that one need read only a few words to know how and when to spray.

BEATTIE:

Thank you Mr. Close.

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